



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1330.0 - Education News, May 2014

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 14/05/2014



A word from the editor

Includes: Introduction to newsletter

CensusAtSchool News

Includes: 2014 CensusAtSchool Questionnaire, Information about CensusAtSchool and how to get involved

CensusAtSchool: How are Australian students Using the Internet?

Includes: Data from the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire, Ideas for how to use data in the classroom

An Idea for the Classroom: CaSQ 26 Calculating Mean, Median and Mode Using Excel

Includes: CaSQ 26 Calculating Mean, Median and Mode Using Excel, Australian Curriculum codes

Resources for Teachers: Cyber Smart

Includes: Information about Cyber Smart website

Conferences

Includes: Information about upcoming conferences and presentations

Interesting Publications

Includes: ABS publications of interest

Contact Details

Includes: Contact details for Education Services

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A word from the editor

Welcome to the Term 2 edition of Ed News!

The theme for this edition is the **Internet & ICT**.

We are officially a third of the way through the 2014 CensusAtSchool Questionnaire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers that have encouraged their students to submit data. I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage those that haven't participated to please do so. There is still plenty of time left to get involved and ensure that your students don't miss out.

The students of today, or 'millennials' as they are sometimes known, are a generation the likes of which the world has never seen. They are a generation that has no recollection of life before the Internet, considering technology an everyday essential. The CensusAtSchool Questionnaire asks students how they access the Internet at home, and what they use the Internet for. These data reveal a lot about students, and it is particularly interesting to see the time series of data. To explore these rich data, please read on in the '[CensusAtSchool: How are students using the Internet?](#)' article below.

Continuing with our theme, I have chosen to feature [**CaSQ 26 Calculating Mean, Median and Mode Using Excel**](#) in this edition. As the title suggests, in this lesson students use Excel to calculate mean, median and mode, using CensusAtSchool data from the Random Sampler. Find out more in '[**An Idea for the Classroom**](#)'.

In the '[**Resources for Teachers**](#)' section I have profiled the Australian Government website Cyber Smart. As technology continues to influence the way our students learn, I thought this resource would be a great tool for teachers who are concerned about ensuring cyber safety in their classroom.

For additional ABS data, statistics and resources, check out our '[**Interesting Publications**](#)' section. These publications offer a gateway into a range of recently published ABS products that I have found particularly interesting this month.

Finally, please feel free to contact Education Services with any ideas or suggestions you may have about articles or activities. To do so, please refer to our '[**Contact details**](#)' section.

Emma Salik

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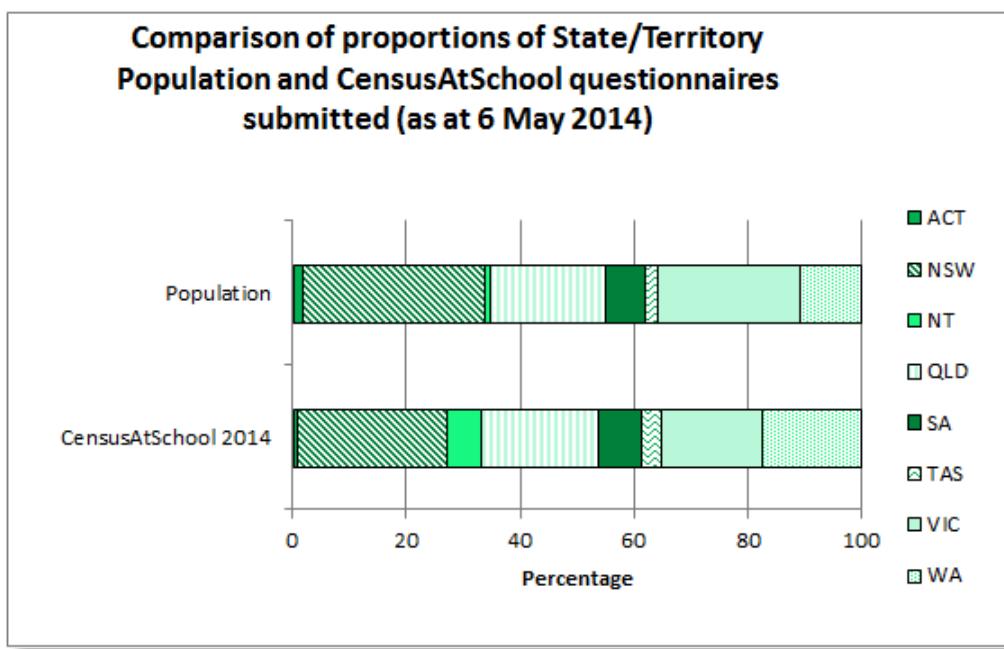


CensusAtSchool News

Questionnaire closes 1 August! I encourage all teachers, whose students haven't yet completed the questionnaire, to do so soon to ensure your students don't miss out.

Questionnaire update. We are now about a third of the way through the CensusAtSchool 2014 Questionnaire. The Questionnaire is tracking well so far, with more than 4,500 students having submitted questionnaires.

Comparing the CensusAtSchool proportion of questionnaires submitted to proportion of population can be an effective means of comparing the contribution of each State and Territory compare. We can see that WA, NT and Tas are all batting above their averages with their submitted questionnaire proportions larger than their population proportions. SA, ACT and NSW have submitted total numbers of questionnaires that are relatively proportionally even with their populations. The current underdogs are Qld and Vic, as both states have lower proportions of questionnaires submitted than their population proportions. It will certainly be a race to the finish line, to see how each state rates.



2014 Key Dates: mark these dates in your diary, because you won't want to miss our 2014 CensusAtSchool data when it is released!

- Random Sampler - 18 August
- Summary Tables and Time Series Tables - 15 September
- Data for Calculators, Prepared Samples, Infographics and Interesting Statistics - 17 November

Can't wait till August? Do you need data now? CensusAtSchool data from 2006-2013 is now available. There are a number of ways you can access our exciting data.

For quick and easy data, our Interesting Statistics are a great entry point to CensusAtSchool data, providing a quick and easy analytical summary.

Complete CensusAtSchool data can be found in the National Summary Tables and National Time Series Tables. The tables show data results at the State/Territory level as well as Australia as a whole.

Alternatively, if you'd like your students to be more hands on and find their own data, why not try the Random Sampler? The Sampler is a fantastic tool that makes it easy for students to produce data samples according to their own chosen research parameters.

[Back to top](#)

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CensusAtSchool: How are Australian students using the Internet?

Did you know that between October and December 2013, over 27,000 terabytes of data was downloaded by Australians with Internet access via a mobile handset? This represents an increase of 41 per cent in mobile handset data downloads from the three months ending 30 June 2013 (Source: Internet Activity, Australia, December 2013, cat. no. 8153.0).

Data collected by the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire has revealed that Australian students are increasingly accessing the Internet from mobile phones. Since 2006, the percentage of students accessing the Internet from 'other' devices, including mobile phones, has risen from 3.4 per cent to 19.9 per cent in 2013. With students' easy access to mobile phones, it comes as no surprise that they are now accessing the Internet through other devices rather than traditional computers.

Fast facts:

- In 2013, only 5 per cent of Australian students who completed the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire could not access the Internet at home.
- Very few Australian students are hearing the screech of dial-up Internet. In 2013, only 3 percent of Australian students had a dial-up Internet connection, compared to 29.6 per cent in 2006.
- In 2013, broadband connection was the most common way for students to access the Internet (72.1 per cent).
- In 2013, students spent a median of 10.0 hours using the computer/Internet each week. This was equal to hanging out with friends as the most popular weekly activity.
- Girls more often use the Internet for social networking (52 per cent) than boys (38 per cent).

Ideas for the classroom

1. Sample vs. Population

Compare your class to CensusAtSchool population data from 2013 on how boys and girls use the Internet. You can use CensusAtSchool 2013 Summary data - you will need Tables 13A and 13B.

Alternatively, the same data is displayed as an infographic poster. The poster can be viewed online or downloaded for free as a PDF file.

2. Time Series Analysis

Compare changes over time of how students access the Internet in Australia using CensusAtSchool data from 2006 - 2013. To do this, you can use CensusAtSchool Time Series data in Table 12.

Alternatively, the same data is displayed as an infographic poster. The poster can be viewed online or downloaded for free as a PDF file.

3. Sample vs. Sample

You can compare variance in samples to measure how students engage with technology in Australia by using the CensusAtSchool Random Sampler to generate a sample, and comparing it to other random samples in the class, alternatively, conduct a survey of your own class using the same questions that appear in the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire.

You can view the CensusAtSchool Questionnaire online, or download and print it off as a PDF file, on our Past Questionnaires page.

[Back to top](#)

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An Idea for the Classroom: CaSQ 26 Calculating Mean, Median and Mode Using Excel

Do your students know how to calculate mean, median and mode in Excel? If they don't, they are about to learn, in **CaSQ 26 - Calculating Mean, Median and Mode Using Excel**.

In this activity, students use CensusAtSchool data on how many hours students sleep at night in Excel to calculate the mean, median and mode. This lesson is best suited to students in Year 7, and aligns with Australian Curriculum code ACMSP171.

Do you have a classroom idea that uses ABS data or ABS Education products? Let us know at education@abs.gov.au and we can share it with schools around Australia.

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Resources for Teachers: Cyber Smart

cyber(smart:)



With the use of technology increasing in the classroom every year, it has never been so important for teachers to be aware of cyber safety and how to manage risk in the classroom.

The Australian Government website **Cyber Smart** is a great tool for teachers, parents and students. The website has been developed to communicate information in an engaging way, with sections of the website designed to appeal to different demographics - young kids, kids, teens, parents, and schools.

Is your classroom cyber smart? The website takes the guess work away for teachers, providing articles exploring some key themes of smart technology use. Themes explored include health and well-being, collaboration and communication, organisation and planning, and entertainment and enjoyment.

How can I bring this information into the classroom? In the 'Schools' section, teachers will discover a library of practical information and resources, including lesson plans for all stages of schooling, from lower primary to upper secondary.

Teachers will also find articles emphasising being safe on the Internet whilst still having fun, as well as advice on how to manage risk. There are also resources for teachers concerned about cyber issues, including excessive Internet use, identity theft, digital reputation and social networking.

Is there further support there if I need it? If you come across anything that causes concern, and you need some advice, there are links to organisations such as the Kids Help Line, ACMA and the Australian Federal Police on the website.

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Conferences

2014 Oxford University Press (OUP) Education Conferences Melbourne (16 May) and Sydney (30 May).

Frances will be presenting at the 2014 OUP Education Conferences in both Melbourne (16 May at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre) and Sydney (30 May at The Australian Technology Park). Frances's presentation will introduce the audience to our Education Services and CensusAtSchool web pages and resources.

QAMT Annual Conference, James Cook University, Townsville (5-6 July). Mary-Anne will be presenting a session called 'Using Excel to Create Statistical Displays' at QAMT this year. In this hands-on session Mary-Anne will teach participants how to create frequency tables using the COUNTIF function, and then, from this, create a variety of graphs. This session is best suited to teachers of years 4 to 9.

Texas Instruments (TI) Webinar, featuring Education Services (22 July). Education Services' own Mary-Anne Aram, along with representatives of Texas Instruments, will be conducting a webinar titled 'Most people I know.' This session will investigate statistical questions and use Australian Bureau of Statistics data. If you would like to register for this PD you can do so [here](#).

Professional Development (PD) by Phone. You asked, and we delivered! Education Services is delighted to announce that we now have a suite of PD by Phone sessions available to teachers Australia wide. PD is conducted over speaker phone or video conference facilities by one of our qualified teachers, and is absolutely free.

PD by Phone sessions are of 30, 60 or 90 minutes in duration, and cover themes such as Excel skills, website tour and ABS products. For more information please view our Free Stuff for Teachers web page or contact us at education@abs.gov.au.

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Interesting Publications

Internet Activity, Australia, December 2013 (cat. no. 8153.0)

This publication contains data about Internet activity in Australia. Topics include type of Internet connection, the type of user, the volume of data downloaded and the speed of the Internet connection, as well as location of Internet subscribers (by state or territory).

Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2012-13 (cat. no. 8146.0)

This publication explores household Internet access and personal Internet use. An interesting finding in this publication is that three out of four Internet users are using the Internet to make online purchases. Data cubes are available to download.

Information Paper: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Perspectives on Homelessness, 2014 (cat. no. 4736.0)

This information paper includes findings from engagement conducted over 12 months with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and homelessness service providers. This paper includes articles on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples perspectives on homelessness, and implications for homelessness measurement. This paper can be downloaded as a PDF file.

Australian Health Survey: Biomedical Results for Nutrients, 2011-12 (cat. no. 4364.0.55.006)

This is the second release of biomedical results from the 2011-13 Australian Health Survey. In this publication you will discover feature articles on iodine, women of childbearing age, and vitamin D. These feature article articles are accompanied by a number of data cubes that can be downloaded for free.

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Contact Details

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Education News is a totally free resource that aims to assist teachers' use of ABS data in their classroom. When you **subscribe** you will be notified of each new edition as it is published.

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Education News keeps teachers and students up to date with ABS resources and data that is relevant to the school sector.

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